

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2628
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS KINGSTON 6028

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, JM
SUBJECT: HARRY BELAFONTE TO VISIT JAMAICA IN NOVEMBER

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS IN THE JULY 31, 1978 PAPERS,
JAMAICAN-BORN U.S. ENTERTAINER HARRY BELAFONTE WILL VISIT
JAMAICA IN NOVEMBER TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE
TO DISCUSS WAYS "IN WHICH HE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE
JAMAICAN STRUGGLE." THE ARTICLE AS IT APPEARED IN THE
DAILY NEWS IS QUOTED BELOW:

BEGIN QUOTE

JAMAICAN-BORN INTERNATIONAL ARTISTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ACTIVIST HARRY BELAFONTE REVEALED TO YOUTH AND SPORTS
MINISTER HUGH SMALL AND LEADERS OF THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION
TO THE 11TH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA YESTERDAY MORNING THAT
HE WILL BE VISITING JAMAICA IN NOVEMBER.

HE TOLD THE JAMAICAN REPRESENTATIVES THAT ON THAT VISIT
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KINGST 06028 011708Z

HE HOPES TO DISCUSS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
JAMAICAN PEOPLE, WAYS IN WHICH HE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO
THE JAMAICAN STRUGGLE, ACCORDING TO AN API REPORT FROM
HAVANA.

MR. BELAFONE HAD EXPRESSED A KEEN INTEREST IN MEETING THE
JAMAICAN REPRESENTATIVES, AND TOOK TIME OUT AFTER A HECTIC

SCHEDULE, JUST TWO HOURS BEFORE LEAVING HAVANA, TO HOLD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON THE JAMAICAN SCENE.

DISCUSSIONS RANGED FROM THE PRESENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT OF REGGAE MUSIC IN THE PAST AND PRESENT STRUGGLES OF THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE FOR A BETTER LIFE AND A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

MR. BELAFONTE SAID THAT HE HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED A LOVE FOR JAMAICA AND THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED THE ACTIVITIES OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY IN HIS STRUGGLE FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE KNOW THAT EVER SINCE THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD A NEW SOCIETY BEGAN, THE WHOLE FORCE OF IMPERIALISM HAD BEEN TRAINED ON JAMAICA. THIS WAS THE REASON FOR THE EXTREME DIFFICULTIES BEING FACED AT PRESENT, MR. BELAFONTE SAID.

THE INTERNATIONAL SINGER SAW HIS MEETING WITH THE YOUTHS AS A CONCRETE STARTING POINT IN HIS OWN INVOLVEMENT IN HELPING TO ADVANCE THE JAMAICAN PROCESS. AMONG THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE DISCUSSION WITH MR. BELAFONTE WERE MPS SELWIN DEWAR AND CARL THOMPSON, ARTHUR NEWLAND, SHELDON MCDONALD, BARRY CHEVANNES, BOB ANDY, PATRICK HYLTON, BARBARA BLAKE AND JAMAICAN JOURNALISTS COVERING THE FESTIVAL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KINGST 06028 011708Z

ARTHUR NEWLAND THANKED MR. BELAFONTE ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP, PAID TRIBUTE TO HIS LONGSTANDING STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES AND PROMISED THAT THE YOUTH AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA WOULD WELCOME AND RECEIVE HIM WHEN HE VISITED JAMAICA.

END QUOTE.
IRVING

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